Claims

1. A method of depleting a sample of MHC molecule antibodies comprising at least the steps of contacting said sample with one or more recombinant MHC molecules or functionally equivalent variants, derivatives or fragments thereof, optionally attached to a solid support and removing at least the recombinant MHC molecules to which antibodies contained within the sample have bound.

2. The method as claimed in claim 1 wherein the MHC molecule antibodies and MHC molecules are HLA molecule antibodies and HLA molecules, respectively.

3. The method as claimed in claim 1 or 2 wherein said MHC or HLA molecule is a Class I MHC or HLA molecule.

4. The method as claimed in claim 1 or 2 wherein said MHC or HLA molecule is a Class II MHC or HLA molecule.

5. The method as claimed claim 3 or 4 wherein the heavy chain of said MHC or HLA molecule is recombinant.

6. The method as claimed in claim 5 wherein said recombinant MHC or HLA molecule comprises a heavy chain, 2-microglobulin and a peptide or functionally equivalent variant, derivative or fragment thereof.

7. A method as claimed in claim 6 wherein said peptide is derived from HIV, HCV or an influenza virus.

8. A method as claimed in claim 6 wherein said heavy chain is a variant provided with means for immobilization.

9. The method of any one of claims 1 to 8 wherein said solid support is a spherical bead.

10. The method of claim 1 or 2 wherein said solid support is a nitrocellulose strip.

11. The method of claim 1 or 2 wherein said solid support is a nylon membrane.

12. The method of claim 1 or 2 wherein said solid support is a nitrocellulose membrane.

13. The method of claim 1 wherein the recombinant MHC is synthesized in a prokaryotic expression system.

14. The method of claim 2 wherein the recombinant HLA is synthesized in a prokaryotic expression system.

15. The method of claim 1 wherein the recombinant MHC is synthesized in a eukaryotic expression system.

16. The method of claim 2 wherein the recombinant HLA is synthesized in a eukaryotic expression system.

17. The method of any one of claims 1 to 14 wherein the sample is a body fluid sample.